

Nation as I express pride and appreciation for all Tyler has done for the sport of cycling and particularly his admirable representation of our nation in the 2004 Summer Olympics Games.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF GREGORY
MOORE OF EMMETT TOWNSHIP, MI

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2004

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of a good friend. Mr. Gregory Moore of Emmett Township, Michigan, was recently elected the Chairman of the Calhoun County, Michigan Board of Commissioners.

A Western Michigan University alumnus and graduate fellow of the prestigious Michigan Political Leadership Program, Greg has accomplished many good deeds with his extensive local, civic and political involvement. For 14 years, he worked in the Radiology Department in the Battle Creek Health System. He also co-owned and operated a small recycling business in Calhoun County. Greg is currently serving his third term on the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners and his 10th year as a member of the Emmett Township Planning Commission. He is a former neighborhood council president and George Award honoree for outstanding service to the community. Greg currently serves on a number of local boards and committees including: Character Unlimited, International Festival of Lights, Battle Creek Area International Relations Committee and the Substance Abuse Council of Greater Battle Creek, just to name a few. He has also been a Congressional District Director for five years.

He has been married for 15 years to his wonderful wife, Becky. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to call Greg Moore a great American.

MY ANGELS IN ADOPTION:
ANTONIO AND MARTHA GOMEZ

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2004

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two residents of my Congressional District, Antonio and Martha Gomez, who I have selected as my nominees for the sixth annual Angels in Adoption Award.

The Awards are an opportunity to honor dedicated constituents for their efforts in helping children, as well as an opportunity to raise awareness about adoption. Members of Congress are asked by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute to select an individual, couple or organization from their district who has made a difference in the lives of children, either through adoption, foster care or child welfare advocacy.

I selected Antonio and Martha as my Angels in Adoption because for the past eight years, they have provided a safe and loving home to a dozen foster children, ranging in age from 2

weeks to eighteen years. Their entry into the world of foster parenting was inspired by their daughter who had a friend who was a foster child. Because of her interest, Antonio and Martha decided to become foster parents, and they have never looked back.

Two years ago, they adopted one of their foster children who is now a happy five-year old who loves and is loved by his family, including the biological children of his parents—his 16 year old brother and 23 year old sister.

Besides being a foster parent and adoptive parent, Antonio has served as President of the Imperial Valley Foster Parents Association, and he is currently serving as Facilitator, arranging weekly training meetings for the foster parents in Imperial County, California. Martha is now President of the Association which works in cooperation with Imperial Valley College and the State Department of Social Services.

A celebratory banquet is being held tomorrow evening, Thursday, September 23rd, to honor all the nominated Angels in Adoption. Attending the celebration will be actress Jane Seymour, PGA golfer Kirk Triplett, and General Manager and Senior Vice President of the Orlando Magic, Pat Williams. My Angels, Antonio and Martha, will be joining me in attending the banquet, with travel arrangements the courtesy of Southwest Airlines and Pardee Construction Company.

I am sincerely proud of Antonio and Martha, because they have given of themselves for the benefit of the lives of so many children. Through their example, they are an inspiration to other foster and adoptive parents in the community in which they live.

It is an honor to recognize their significant contributions and to designate them as my Angels in Adoption.

OAK GROVE UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
CELEBRATES 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2004

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Oak Grove Union School District on the occasion of its 150th anniversary. Established in 1854, the school district is the second oldest continuing school district in the state of California.

Wm. M. Rider, the first teacher FOR whom records are available, in 1857 had a daily attendance of 18 students. By 1858, attendance grew to 32 children. Currently, the district has over 650 students in grades K–8 supported by the two schools in the district: Oak Grove Elementary and Willowside School.

For one hundred and fifty years, the Oak Grove School District has educated numerous generations in Graton. This excellence would not have been possible without the support and efforts of the teachers, parents and community.

The community supports and benefits from the environmental friendly program at the Oak Grove School. The school has reduced its landfill waste by nearly 90 percent. Students

enjoy fresh vegetables and fruit grown from their own classroom gardens prepared by a volunteer teacher.

The Oak Grove School District is integral to the community. The community shares in the learning experiences of the students as they test new ideas and understands that we must all work together to prepare our students to be our nation's future leaders.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the Oak Grove School District for its commitment to extend education beyond the classroom and into the community for one hundred and fifty years.

PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING MS.
NICOLE HARDESTY

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2004

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Ms. Nicole Hardesty is a student at Utica High School in Utica, Ohio; and

Whereas, Ms. Nicole Hardesty is the recipient of the Best Buy Scholarship, a nationwide program that awards students on the basis of exceptional community service and solid academic performance; and

Whereas, Ms. Nicole Hardesty must be commended for her dedication and devotion to her community and academia; and

Whereas, Ms. Nicole Hardesty has demonstrated a willingness to be a leader and a role model for the students of Utica High School.

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in honoring and congratulating Ms. Nicole Hardesty and the Best Buy Children's Foundation for her outstanding accomplishment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2004

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I was out of town on official business yesterday, and missed Rollcall Vote numbers 457, 458, 459, and 460. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall 457, "no" on rollcall 458, "no" on rollcall 459, and "no" on rollcall 460.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2004

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, September 15, I was unable to vote on the Hefley amendment (rollcall 455) and on the Moran amendment (rollcall 456) to H.R. 5025, the Transportation, Treasury and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act for FY 2005. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on both amendments.